

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

This application has been reviewed in light of the decision of the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences of the United States Patent and Trademark Office dated September 26, 2003, and the Office Action dated November 21, 2000. Claims 1-14 are currently pending in this application. It is gratefully acknowledged that the Examiner still finds allowable subject matter in claims 11 and 12.

In the Office Action the Examiner has rejected Claims 1 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Sanders, III et al.* (U.S. 6,026,296), Claims 2, 7, 8, 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Sanders* in view of *Huotari* (U.S. 5,987,323), Claims 3, 4, and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Sanders* in view of *Huotari*, and further in view of Applicant's own admission, Claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Sanders* in view of Applicant's own admission, and further in view of *Alanara et al.* (U.S. 5,878,351), and Claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Sanders* in view of Applicant's own admission.

As indicated above, independent Claims 1, 2, and 9 have been amended to include the recitations that the group identifier is a separately defined field *from device Identifiers (IDs) of the mobile communication terminal and the plurality of the subscribers*. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that this recitation is not disclosed in any of the prior art. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 1, 2, and 9 are patentably distinct from all the Examiner's cited art, and it is respectfully requested that the rejections to Claims 1, 2, and 9 be withdrawn.

In addition, without conceding the patentability per se of dependent Claims 3-8, 10, 13 and 14, allowance of these dependent claims are respectfully requested by virtue of their dependency on independent Claims 2 and 9, respectively.

Applicant again gratefully accepts the acknowledgment in the Office Action that dependent Claims 11 and 12 include allowable subject matter. However, in view of the above remarks and amendments, Applicant maintains that all of the pending claims in this application, namely Claims 1-14, are allowable. Allowance of Claims 1-14 is thus respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference or personal interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner may contact Applicant's attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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